



Arizona Department of Public Safety

- For Immediate Release -

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Violent Criminal Apprehension Team has arrested 461 fugitives since late May of 2008

12 fugitives arrested last week

575 Felony Warrants cleared

On May 12, 2008, the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) was directed to develop a multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional statewide plan to identify and arrest individuals with outstanding felony warrants. This statewide effort is known as the Violent Criminal Apprehension Team (VCAT).

So far, VCAT efforts have resulted in the arrests of **461** fugitives, including **12** last week. A total of **446** felony warrants have been cleared. Some of those arrested last week include:

Juan F. Lopez was arrested for a felony warrant out of the Maricopa County Superior Court for probation violation on attempted child abuse charges in Avondale. **Lopez** was involved in the death of a 16- month- old child.

Simon Robert Chavez was arrested for five felony warrants in Avondale. The first felony warrant was out of the Maricopa County Superior Court for failure to appear on unlawful imprisonment charges. **Chavez** was found hiding in the living room of a home after refusing to come out. **Chavez** had previously been involved in a hostage stand off with police involving a child.

Kirby Duane Stone was arrested for a felony warrant out of the Maricopa County Superior Court for probation violation on two counts of sexual exploitation of minor charges in Mesa. **Stone** may be facing new charges of sexual exploitation of a minor also in Mesa

“Our VCAT officers are working hard every day to locate fugitives. Thanks to the cooperation of numerous law enforcement agencies, we are taking these folks off the street and helping to make communities safer,” said Roger Vanderpool, director of the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

Press Inquiries:

PO BOX 6638 | Phoenix, AZ 85005-6638 | www.azdps.gov | pio@azdps.gov